

Freedom in Christ



2 Cor. 8:9

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he
became poor, so that you through his poverty
might become rich.*



What happened when we became Christians



Our relationship with God has been restored



13 ... now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,



**We have a new heart and the Holy Spirit lives
within us**



Romans 5:5 (NLT)

⁵ ... we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.



Galatians 4:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.”

⁷ Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.



We have new life “in Christ”



2 Corinthians 5:17 (ANIV)

17 ... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!



**We have been given everything we need to live as
Jesus lived**



2 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT)

³ By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvellous glory and excellence.



⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.



Ephesians 3:20-21 (ANIV)

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



If you want to know what a man believes, don't listen to what he says. Watch what he does.



Know the truth



Know the truth

Believe the truth in the right places (head and heart)



Know the truth

Believe the truth in the right places (head and heart)

Act on what we know and believe



What did not happen when we became a
Christian



Our “sinful nature” was not taken away



Romans 7:15-25 (NLT)

¹⁵ I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.

¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.

¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.



¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.

¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.



²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.



²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

²² I love God's law with all my heart.

²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.



²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?



²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord...



The big question for many is this: how can we defeat sin? The bad news is we can't. The good news is that Christ has already done it for us! Then what has to change so that we don't go round in circles falling into the same old patterns of sin?



It will not happen by trying harder. The key to freedom is knowing the truth. We need to know the truth about sin. Sin itself is not dead – far from it. In fact, it is still enormously appealing, and it tempts us every day to meet our legitimate needs for significance, security and acceptance through things other than God.



So, the law of sin is still effective. How can you overcome a law that is still effective? By a greater law: "Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2).



For example, there's no way I can fly because every time I try, the law of gravity keeps me stuck to the earth and I haven't found a way to stop it working. What can I do? Well, I can get into an aeroplane and I can fly!



I overcome the law of gravity by the law of aerodynamics and the power of the engine. It's not as if the law of gravity has stopped working but simply that I have taken advantage of a more powerful law to overcome it.



The law that is now at work in me as a child of God is the law of the Spirit of life and it is far greater than the law of sin and death. Whereas before I had no choice but to stay on the ground in my sin, now I can choose to fly above the law of sin and death!



Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

²⁰ My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

